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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES
Education
Human Services
Insurance
Urban Affairs

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2011
TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Justin Simmons
131st Legislative District 
SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation – (Veteran Status on Driver's License)

In the near future, I will introduce legislation which will allow Pennsylvania veterans to indicate their military status on their driver's license.

Many veterans would like to receive a distinguishable mark or symbol on their driver's license so that they can be readily identified as an honorably discharged veteran and be recognized for their faithful service to our country.

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not issue identification cards to veterans who are honorably discharged. Veterans who do receive benefits from the VA are issued a VA identification card. In addition, retired military personnel are issued identification cards. The lack of an official "veteran's identification" often poses a challenge for veterans to prove their military service while trying to obtain the benefits they deserve. My legislation would give veterans the convenience of including this important information on their driver's license, a valid document recognized in the Commonwealth. This measure would eliminate the need for veterans to carry and provide documents that may be cumbersome and that may contain personal information such as their medical history and social security numbers.

This simple change would make life easier for the one million Pennsylvanians who have served our country. It would also be a valuable identification tool for law enforcement officers, medical personnel, social service outreach workers, and other departments that assist veterans in obtaining state and federal benefits. Most importantly, it is a way for veterans to demonstrate the enormous contributions they have made to the country and the excellent skills they have acquired while serving in uniform.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring this bill, please contact Lori McCauslin in my Harrisburg office at: 717-783-1673.